

established as a result of explosives used for sandstone quarrying.

(b) to (d) Archaeological Survey of India has brought to the notice of the concerned authorities in the State to take necessary measures to stop quarrying in the vicinity of Centrally protected monuments. Relevant Notifications in this regard have been brought to the notice of the State Governments.

Unauthorised Gas Connections

3082. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Vigilance Department of Andhra Pradesh have unearthed an inter-state racket involved in the business of unauthorised gas connection with the connivance of the LPG dealers of Government Oil Companies;

(b) if so, the total number of people involved in such rackets;

(c) the action taken against those who are the LPG dealers for Government Oil Companies;

(d) whether it has been reported that there has been large scale involvement of officials from the Oil companies for supply of gas connections unauthorisedly;

(e) if so, whether these gas connections have been regularised; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) to (f) During the first week of June, 1997, Vigilance Cell of Civil Supplies Department, Andhra Pradesh had raided and arrested some persons at Vijayawada for alleged involvement in procuring forged/fake TVs of IOC/HPC/BPC. The forged/duplicate printing blocks for TVs of IOC/BPC/HPC along with rubber stamps of LPG distributorships of IOC/BPC/HPC were also confiscated. On further investigations, Vigilance had raided 23 distributorships in the State of Andhra Pradesh and suspended 12 distributorships who could have honoured such forged/fake TVs. On the basis of prima facie evidence, the authorities arrested nine managers of LPG distributorships. The officials of Andhra Pradesh advised State level coordinator of Andhra Pradesh to verify the details of termination vouchers which were alleged to be fake and supposed to be honoured by the distributors. The Civil Supplies officials of Andhra Pradesh have given time upto 15th August, 1997.

Based on the verification of the details of the alleged fake termination voucher, further action is to be taken as per Marketing Discipline Guidelines. There is no report of involvement of the officers of IOC, HPC and BPC in the supply of gas connection unauthorisedly, so far.

SCs/STs In ITDC

3083. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been a huge shortfall in all the reserve categories of posts for the SCs/STs in the ITDC Ltd.;

(b) if so, the vacancies remained unfilled till the end of the recruitment year 1996;

(c) the efforts made to wipe out the backlog vacancies;

(d) whether the ITDC has conducted special recruitment drive; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) and (b) The categorywise details of reserved posts remaining unfilled at the end of recruitment year 1996 are given as under :

Group of posts	Shortfall at the end of recruitment year 1996	
	SC	ST
A	38	25
C	08	65
D	—	07
Total :	46	97

(c) to (e) With a view to filling up backlog of reserved posts, a special recruitment drive exclusively for SCs/STs has been made by releasing advertisement in news-papers/ notification to Employment Exchange for 24 posts (13 SCs and 11 STs) in Group A and 32 posts (09 SCs and 23 STs) in Group C and D. In addition an advertisement for five posts (02 SCs and 03 STs) in Group A has also been released alongwith general candidates. The recruitment action is in progress.

[Translation]

Sardar Sarovar Award

3084. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the